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3_12_13 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 7:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:10 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Mustafa Varoglu, Ben Wall, Alex Hoffinger, Bill Turville.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No public comments.

Waldo Park Public Art Update

Mr. Alex Hoffinger and Mr. Bill Turville presented a revised sketch of the Waldo Public Art Park Tree with additional details about the project and how it will be done. The nest is higher off of the ground from previous sketches and previous concerns from the Commission have been addressed. They would like approval to move forward with a start date in April and completion sometime in June. Anybody doing physical work will need to sign an indemnification agreement. Mr. Connelly will send the bylaw for construction time constraints.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0

Arlington Men's Softball Discussion

Mr. Ben Wall was present. He talked about forming a board for better communication in the hope of resolving issues from last year. Mr. Wall stated that there will be a team coordinator, who will provide the Commission with email addresses. Also, Mr. Connelly will need to receive rosters from all teams. All teams understand that they need to be off of the fields by 10:00 PM. Ms. Mayer gave Mr. Wall a copy of the Town bylaws, related to the use of public parks, and a copy of the field permit policy and asked him to make sure that players in the league are aware of the rules.

Summer Street Field Safety Netting Pilot Options

Mr. Connelly did not hear back from Republic, but did receive a quote from Heimlich for \$14,650 which includes everything to complete a pilot test. The netting will be put up on existing light poles and will require the installation of a couple of additional poles for support. These poles will be like the long ones on the fence at the McClennen youth baseball field, and the nets will not stay up year round. The Commission will evaluate the success of the pilot at the end of baseball season in the fall.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Warrant Article #20 Update

The Warrant Article #20, Spy Pond land transfer has been withdrawn by proponents.

CDBG Status

Three requests were submitted - Hockey Scholarships, Jobs Jobs Jobs program and Scholarships. Many of the previous capital project uses for CDBG funding are no longer authorized through the program.

Capital Improvement Update

Florence Avenue Playground – The final input selection went well. CBA is preparing bid documents to go out to bid by the end of the month. Clara will be meeting with the DPW with regard to water requirements for the spray elements.

Buck Field Renovations – Youth baseball is in the process of hiring a contractor who will be responsible for installing the netting. Until the netting is up, there should not be games played on the field.

Poets Corner Master Plan – Mr. Connelly stated that the testing has been done. Next step would be to proceed with preliminary design. Ms. Mayer suggested holding off until Mr. Connelly can gather more information about the adjacent property and the interest of other Town departments.

Capital Request for FY 2014 – Mr. Connelly reviewed the Capital Plan with the Commission.

Off-Leash Dog Review

Ellen Reed complaint – Ellen Reed, abutter of Menotomy Rocks Park, is still having problems with the same off-leash dog, named Lucy, entering her yard. She wants the owner ticketed. Mr. Connelly will talk to Captain Flynn, and has been told that APD should be out aggressively ticketing within the next few weeks. Ms. Mayer has written a letter to Chief Ryan requesting support for park issues, including off-leash by-law offenses.

Mustafa Varaglu would like to see a steady aggressive plan, not just an aggressive plan in the Spring. Mr. Connelly stated that the Commission has discussed once again investigating park rangers as an option.

Thorndike OLRA – Mr. Connelly stated that overall things are going very well. Since the OLRA has been open for nearly a year, permanent signage listing the rules and to highlight certain rules of the OLR (clean up after your dog, no excessive barking, no food and no smoking) is needed. Mr. Vitters would like to see some uniformity/consistency with the look of signage at the parks.

Special Requests

Arlington High School Class of 1963 Flea Market – Mr. Connelly attached a request from Janice Weber for a flea market to be held at the rink, which all think is an excellent off-season use of the rink.

Arlington High School Tennis Lights Request – A request from Arlington High School and Arlington Catholic to have a night match was submitted. Mr. Connelly thought it was a great idea. The Commission agreed and requested the usual restrictions related to lights out by 10pm and noise.

The Friends of Robbins Farm Park sent in their requests for Spring, Summer and Fall events. These will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Rink and Recreation Update

No Report

Committee Updates

Portable Restrooms – There has been little change from last year.

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – N/A

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

None

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation